

Water Year ends

In spite of a weekend rainmaker on the way, we are still in a drought. Here are the latest end-of-water-year conditions.

October 1, 2008 Water conditions

PRECIPITATION

This water year, Oct. 1, 2007 - Sept. 30, 2008 has seen a deficit of as much as 10-20 inches of precipitation in the Sierra, source of much of our State's water supply.

The Northern Sierra precipitation index recorded 34.9" of rain this water year, ending Sept. 30, 2008. Normal annual rainfall is 50.0".

The seven-month period March-Sept, 2008 was the driest on record in the Northern Sierra. Only 3.5" of rainfall was received; merely 23% of average.

For the Northern Sierra, the last 2 water years are the 9th driest 2-year period on record (88 years of record).

Statewide precipitation for the six-month period, March - August, 2008 was only 31% of average; the driest March - August in 114 years of record for the State.

Statewide water year precip (ending Sept. 30, 2008) is about 77% of average. 2-year statewide precip is about 70% of average.

RESERVOIRS

Current Reservoir % of capacity: (October 1, 2008)

Shasta 30%

Oroville 31%

Lake Oroville is at its lowest carryover storage (October 1 level) since the drought of 1977. By the end of the calendar year, it may fall to a new record low. Previous record is 882 thousand acre feet (TAF) on 9/8/77.

Today's storage is 31% of capacity, 49% of average for the date. The level is 678 feet, with storage at 1.097 million acre feet (MAF).

Folsom 28%

Trinity 46%

New Melones 45%

Don Pedro 52%

Exchequer 27%

San Luis 12%

Millerton 38%

Pine Flat 12%

Pyramid* 95%

Castaic* 82%

*smaller reservoir capacity

Statewide average reservoir levels are 73% of average for this date. (Sometimes this is rounded to 75%. It's possible that when Oct. 1 data is finalized over the next week, that this total average will drop to 72%, which would round to 70% of average). Last year at this time they were at 85% of average.

State's major reservoirs are storing about 1/3rd of their capacity at a time they would typically be at about 2/3rds.

RUNOFF

Statewide runoff will be about 57% of normal this water year (60% if including the North Coast). Last water year, statewide runoff amounted to 53% of normal.

Both the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems are classified as Critical for this water year (lowest of 5 levels).

(EL)

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